

CityCollegeNews

A newsletter for staff, faculty and alumni of George Brown College

JANUARY 3, 2006 VOL. 23 NO. 5

Health in the City: Examining Social Determinants of Health



(From left) Chair, GBC Board of Governors, Shirley Sharkee, WHO Commissioner, the Honourable Monique Bégin, Chief Dental Officer, Health Canada, Dr. Peter Cooney, GBC President, Anne Sado and Assistant Deputy Minister, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; Joshua Tepper

George Brown College's 2nd Health in the City event's theme was "Social Determinants of Health," which is a focus of the World Health Organization (WHO). At the November 23rd event, former Health Minister and WHO Commissioner, Monique Bégin addressed an audience of middle and high school guidance counsellors, community partners and health-care professionals about current health-care climates in relation to interprofessional education and the social determinants of health.

This year more than 500 Grade 7 and 8 students from the GTA participated in Health in the City and were exposed to education and career options available at George Brown College.

Health in the City also marked the occasion of the formal opening of George Brown's unique \$350,000 "living lab," the Interprofessional Learning Clinic. This lab draws together a select number of George Brown health programs, including oral health care, hearing instrument specialist, fitness and lifestyle management, dental office administration, and health information management, with unique opportunities for hands-on nursing education. It is a demonstration of George Brown's vision for a one-of-a-kind environment where health sciences students combine competency development within their own discipline with new shared approaches to primary health care, public health, health promotion and prevention, and multicultural health.

Q&A with the President

In December, George Brown College President Anne Sado hosted two Town Hall meetings to deliver updates on key initiatives, share successes and discuss challenges and opportunities currently faced by the College. Anne's presentation was followed by Question & Answer sessions for those in attendance. The following captures a sample of the types of questions asked at the Town Halls.

Q What is the status of the General Education delivery model review at George Brown College?

As part of the Academic Strategy implementation, Georgia Quarato chaired a committee to examine this issue. Four possible models were presented and discussed at Management Committee. The committee recommended its preferred model. have asked Nancy Hood to provide input on the organizational impacts of all the possible models before a final assessment can be made. We expect to make a decision in the new year (January/February). Any change may well be implemented in two stages, as we continue to assess our current organizational capacity to effectively meet priorities.

Q There is more and more interest for staff to be able to participate in new research opportunities. How do we access seed funding to allow us to apply for available funding?

There is a strong Applied Research committee at George Brown College and we have made good progress in identifying both research underway and new opportunities. Each division has also developed more capability through their networks. Research is clearly a key part of our Academic Strategy. Seed money has been made available through the budget planning process in the past. New opportunities should be identified and input for the 06-07 plan.

(continued on page 2)

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The mission of the Educational Resources Department is to work, in partnership with academic staff, to support academic excellence and student success. The Department comprises the Library Learning Commons on two campuses, the Academic Resource Centre on the Ryerson Campus, the College Archives, Photo-ID Services, and Assessment Services.

The Department's broad range of functions includes the provision of access to a wide range of information resources in support of the curriculum, instruction in the effective use and management of information, the assessment of applicants' and new students' academic skill levels and their placement in appropriate English and mathematics courses, the accommodation of students with disabilities writing their tests and examinations, the provision of open-access computing, the production of photo-ID cards, the preservation of historical college records, and the administration of copyright compliance.

Educational Resources operates on a seven-day per-week basis, with the Library Learning Commons (LLC) providing 91.5 hours of service weekly to the more than 1.2 million student LLC users who pass through our doors. On a 24/7 basis, over 35,000 students access the LLC's electronic resources remotely, via the Internet.

Recently, the College's investment in Educational Resources has resulted in significant improvements in the following areas:

- testing and advisement for the placement of new students in English and mathematics courses are completed on the same visit to the Assessment Centre
- one-stop service is now available at both the Casa Loma and St. James Library Learning Commons (investment of \$.8 M over three years)
- library collections have been enhanced with funding of \$195,000 to support the new degree programs, supplemented by a one-time quality assurance collection upgrade investment of \$210,000 in 2003 and an additional \$500,000 this year for further collection upgrades
- library instruction programs in information literacy/management now reach 57% of first-semester students (with the help of funding for two additional librarians)

- virtual (online-chat) reference services assist remote users
- user service staff improve computer support
- last year, student satisfaction with our libraries rose 9%.

Recognizing that its services are at the very core of making teaching and learning the distinguishing hallmark of a George Brown education, Educational Resources is actively supporting the College's Academic Strategy by pursuing the following objectives:

- to expand communication with faculty
- to expand in-class information literacy/management instruction programs to ensure that 100% of first-semester students receive instruction
- to improve research support in the LLCs
- to complete the final phase of the Casa Loma LLC renovation project
- to caption all media resources used in the classroom and LLCs
- to continue the process of upgrading library collections to an appropriate standard
- to support applied research initiatives
- to support the work of the ESL and Communications Working Group to help better align student assessment with program needs.

Fast Facts

- Total book collection: 74,984 volumes
- Periodical collection: 440 current subscriptions
- Video collection: 3,414 titles
- E-Journals: 12,500 titles
- E-Books: 7,000 titles
- Electronic Databases: 65
- Computer Workstations (including research stations): 585 at a ratio of one workstation for every 21 F/T Post Secondary students
- Archival Holdings: over 5,778 cu. ft.
- Admissions/Placement Tests administered: over 35,000 annually
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: over 6,000 hours annually
- Reference/Research Questions: over 25,000 annually

Q&A (continued from page 1)

Q The use of consultants at the College has been questioned in the past — with lack of transparency regarding cost and rationale for use. Do we know how much we have spent on consultants in the last five years and what is the rationale for using them?

We are just beginning to compile reports on items such as this on a current and go forward basis. In the past, we have tracked cost by project, and where consultants have been used, those costs have been included as part of the approved budget. The key reasons for using consultants are capacity, expertise and timing. As pointed out at the St. James Town Hall, staff are often seconded for special projects (e.g. SLCI), but release time can be a problem if specific staff expertise is required. Decisions regarding the use of internal versus external resources are often a trade off. We have also used students to provide expertise — design for signage, artwork etc.

Q As part of the Presidential selection process the staff and faculty informed the Board's Search committee that one of the things the staff wanted most was an assessment of alternative organizational structure in the area of Academic reporting. Were you told this and what is your thinking on this?

Information about the staff input on this question was not this specifically shared with me, although I was advised organizational structure may be an issue. I believe the impact of changing an organizational structure is significant and shouldn't be undertaken without great consideration. I have been assessing how effectively we work now. We have made some new hires to senior management and have changed accountabilities in other areas. As we develop a new strategy, we will assess the organizational needs to ensure effective implementation of that strategy. I continue to feel strongly that structural change is one way to ensure accountability and effectiveness but it is not the only way. In general, our accountability mechanisms do have to be strengthened.

As a result of the Town Halls, a longer list of staff questions were provided than could be published in a single issue of City College News. As of January 15, 2006, some of these Questions & Answers will be posted at <http://linsite>.

Please forward your questions for "Q&A with the President" to Diana Benjamin at dberjami@gbrown.ca.

Staff volunteer worked to ease immigrant frustration in Europe

The riots by Muslim immigrants in France this fall didn't come as any great surprise to Neil McGillivray.

George Brown's Senior Communications Officer spent a month working with immigrant and refugee children in Denmark in July, 2005 and felt their frustration first hand.

"It was clear that many Muslim immigrants and refugees feel separate and often unwelcome in their new country," he says. McGillivray worked with 20 other international volunteers on a pilot project to help children at a refugee "asylum centre" and a low-income, largely immigrant housing development near Copenhagen. "These children had nothing to do so we created a summer camp menu of activities including games, sports and arts and crafts that encouraged self-expression, and co-operation," he says.

The asylum centre, located in the country far from urban areas, was for refugee families whose claims for refuge had been denied and they were all due to be sent back to countries of origin — Iraq, Iran, Somalia and republics of the former Soviet Union.

The refugee children, who ranged in age from seven to 17, seemed to particularly enjoy games that dramatized their stateless situation in which they had to rescue others or guard their own territory, McGillivray says.

Immigrant children at the housing development, who are permanent residents in Denmark with their families, have some difficulty "integrating" into mainstream Danish society. They find their educational and employment prospects limited, often because they speak a mix of their own language and Danish with a limited vocabulary, and they face discrimination. "Unlike in Canada where we value multiculturalism, many Danes would like immigrants to very quickly adopt the values and culture of their new home," he says. But both Denmark and Canada have adopted laws or regulations in the past five years that limit refugee claims, he notes.

The volunteer project, which was sponsored by CISV — an international non-governmental organization affiliated with UNESCO, and the Danish Red Cross — was an exploration of the types of children's programming



Volunteer Patricia Maldonado Valdivieso of Spain (right) helps refugee children in Denmark make hakey-sacks out of balloons filled with rice. The activity was one of many created by a volunteer team in July 2005 that included George Brown's Senior Communications Officer Neil McGillivray.

that could help immigrants and refugees.

"There are volunteer groups in Denmark now using what we learned this summer to create more effective programs for children there," McGillivray says.

McGillivray presented an illustrated talk about his experiences to staff and students in November, and is prepared to present it again to class or other interested groups at the College. He can be reached at nmcgilli@gbrown.on.ca.

Student Success Story: Daniel Jones – Fashion Technology & Design

In his late teens, Daniel Jones started Aboriginal outreach work in remote communities alongside his older brother David, founder and core facilitator of Turtle Concepts. Turtle Concepts offers in-depth workshops and retreats that inspire and increase self-esteem in an informative, enthusiastic and culturally-sensitive format for Aboriginal youth.

Daniel trained and taught for a number of years with Turtle Concepts when he decided it was time to further educate himself in a field that he has always had a passion for. As Daniel was always very creative and enjoyed working behind the scenes of

fashion-related events, the Fashion Technology & Design Program seemed a natural fit.

"The program showed me how to create something from a sketch to wear-ability," says Daniel. He also learned about the fashion industry and the production side of the fashion business. He adds that he enjoyed working with each and every professor he encountered at the College and still keeps in touch with many of them.

His advice to those wanting to apply to the fashion program and work in the fashion industry is to have dedication. He found the program challenging and says hard work is

needed to achieve success both in the program and in the outside world.

Following graduation from George Brown College, armed with great knowledge and a better understanding of himself, he returned full-time to Turtle Concepts and now combines his two passions: love of fashion and design with empowering and inspiring youth. His most recent creations include a series of very popular T-shirts that were designed based on the Seven Grandfather Teachings. You can see them for yourself online at www.turtleconcepts.com.



Daniel puts the finishing touches on a model at the 2005 Canadian Aboriginal Festival.



(From left) David Jones, Chessa Syrette and Daniel Jones backstage at the Roger's Centre during the Canadian Aboriginal Festival's Fashion Show.

Eating Our Words – An evening with Canada's top food writers

What do a lawyer, a French teacher, an aspiring diplomat, a frustrated unpublished poet, a theatre critic and a librarian all have in common?

They were the original careers of Canada's premier food writers. This spectacular event was hosted by The Chef School and organized by Chef Deborah Reid. The evening was moderated by TVO personality and *Globe and Mail* writer Ian Brown whose one liners set the tone for an evening of hilarity. More than 400 faculty, staff, students and members of the general public attended this very special event and were literally rolling in the aisles of the auditorium with laughter. The panel included Elizabeth Baird, *Canadian Living Magazine*; Bonnie Stern, Bonnie Stern Cooking School; Marion Kane, *The Toronto Star*; James Chatto, *Toronto Life*; Gina Mallet, author; Naomi Duguid and Geoffrey Alford, authors; and, John Allemand, *The Globe and Mail*. All panelists offered personal anecdotes and words of wisdom on the art of food and food writing.



Great hors d'oeuvres were served prior to the event.

Peace of Cake 2005

Capturing the true spirit of giving

Over an entire weekend, 150 volunteers, including George Brown College faculty, staff, students, and members of the community gathered at The Chef School to bake, wrap and assemble tasty traditional treats for 1000 Peace of Cake Baskets.

This year's Peace Basket recipients included the War Veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital's Long-Term and Veterans' Care Unit, the Yonge Street Mission, and two youth organizations, Pathways to Education and Horizons for Youth.



The Peace of Cake volunteers took a break from baking to pose for this group shot.

"The commitment of the Peace of Cake volunteers is unbelievable. But I know that what drives them is the gratitude with which our baskets are received," observed Chef Ian Gallacher, George Brown's Baking and Pastry Arts Leader in The Chef School. "It really is about giving what we have to give whether it's energy, time, or talent."

Now in its third year, the Peace of Cake campaign was originally developed in 2002, when hundreds of fruitcakes made at George Brown College were delivered to over 3800 Canadian Peacekeepers around the world.

GBC's Yorkville School of Makeup and Esthetics award announcement

Congratulations to George Brown College Instructor, Jessica Ellison who won the 2006 Contessa Award for Canadian Nail Artist Technician of the Year. Jessica and her colleague, makeup Instructor Georgia Spyracopoulos collaborated talents in the photograph below that graced the cover of the December issue of *ExceptionNail Magazine*.



Photograph courtesy of Babak ©2005

Toronto Police Chief visits George Brown College and addresses city safety

In early December, Students Saving Other Students organized an event to bring awareness to the College's student body about gun violence and to develop effective and achievable solutions. Toronto Chief of Police William Blair was the guest speaker. Chief Blair gave the captive audience his views and strategies on how he plans to restore safety in our communities. Chief Blair also encouraged Toronto residents to get involved in their neighbourhoods by volunteering time for organizations and programs specifically assisting youth. By doing so, he commented, "You can positively influence and even mentor someone in your community who desperately needs direction and guidance." All proceeds from this event were donated to the Pathways to Education Program, which supports the development of youth from economically disadvantaged communities and promotes educational opportunities.



Students Saving Other Students event organizers present Chief Blair with thank you gifts.

City College News mailing list

Should you wish to be removed from the CCN mailing list, please contact Neil McGillivray at (416) 415-5000 ext. 2060 or at nmcgill@gbrown.ca.

The monthly online version of CCN is available at:
<http://www.georgebrown.ca/Marketing/CCN/index.aspx>.

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